(d) whether Government are aware of a report of John Mccorwic, the editor of Earthscan, a London based environmental news service; and

(e) if so, what are the observations relating to India contained therein and what is Government's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) According to the India Meteorological Department there is no evidence of acid rain problem in the country as indicated by the data being recorded in various places;

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) According to the report, India is stated to be among the countries in which damage done by acid pollution could eventually exceed that experienced in North America and Europe. It is also stated that air pollution is severe in cities like Calcutta, Bombay and Delhi.

In view of (c) above, no specific action is envisaged necessary measures are taken for prevention and control of air pollution.

Progress of National Science and Technical Information Network

1527. DR. MOHD. HASHIM KIDWAI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to answer to Starred Question 245 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 8th August, 1985 and state what are the details of the progress made so far to develop the National Science and Technical Information network?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): Under the programmes, National Information System for Science and Technology (NISSAT) two new information centres on textiles and chemicals have been established at Ahmedabad Textiles Industries Research Association (ATIRA) Ahmedabad and National Chemical Laboratory (NCL) Pune respectively. These are in addition to the existing five information centres on leather, food, machine tools, drugs and pharmaceuticals and crystallography. A series of 15 six-week courses and four one-week courses on application of computer to library and information processing have been promoted. Besides six seminars and workshops on information tool and technology, library automation and translation have been supported. A status report on computer-based bibliographic information processing in India and a feasibility report on on-line access to international databases have been completed.

Acquisition of Hemlock Silicon Technology

1528. DR. BAPU KALDATE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have obtained Hemlock Silicon Technology at a cost of Rs. 5 crores and a royalty of Rs. 9 crores;

(b) whether this technology is being developed by Mettur Chemicals; and

(c) if so, what are the reasons for acquisition of Hemlock Silicon Technology was being developed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) Government has taken on record technical collaboration Agreement with M/s. Hemlock, USA for the manufacture of Polycrystalline Silicon. As per the Agreement, the know-how including Basic Design Engineering Documentation, improvements and training is

to be procured for a paymet of a lumpsum fee of US $6.7 million.

So far the Process Package and Basic Design Engineering Documentation have been received. As regards royalty, it would be paid at the rate of 3 per cent on the production from the plant when and if it is put into operation.

(b) Mettur Chemicals jointly with Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore have been developing a technology for production of Polycrystalline Silicon. In this regard a Letter of intent was given to Mettur Chemicals in December 1979 and Industrial Licence in December 1982, the validity of which was extended to March 1986. M/s. Metkem Silicon Limited, a wholly owned subsidiary of M/s. Mettur Chemicals have now set up their production plant.

(c) The Committee set up by the Department of Electronics, had assessed the status of development efforts at Mettur Chemicals in 1983 and recommended for import of technology from Hemlock, since the indigenous technology at that time was not adequate for setting up the large scale production plant for polysilicon of a capacity of 200 MT. Subsequently, at the time of taking the decision to acquire Hemlock technology in January 1985, the status of development efforts and the technology at Mettur Chemicals was reassessed and it was found that the technology is yet to be developed at the production level. The Government decision in the matter as informed to Rajya Sabha on 14th March, 1985 is as follows:

"The Government have taken the decision to enter into an agreement with the Hemlock Semiconductor Corporation, USA after a careful assessment of the present stage of the techno-economic viability and cost effectiveness of the indigenously developed process. At the same time, the Government will give the fullest support to the effort for the development of indigenous process on a commercial scale, and the investment decision in regard to the National Silicon Facility will be taken only after evaluating the results achieved by the production unit of 25 TPA being set up by the Mettur Chemicals".

Safety of Nuclear Reactors against sabotage by terrorists

1529. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any evaluation of the aware that according to a recent study conducted by a panel headed by a retired US Rear Admiral, Thomas Davies and Bernard O'Keefe, Chairman of EG-and-G Incorporated, there is a growing danger of the terrorists going nuclear in a variety of ways threatening to sabotage atomic installations; and

(b) if so, what measures have been taken/are proposed to be taken by Government for the absolute safety of atomic reactors, in the light of the observations made in the study?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INTERNAL SECURITY (SHRI ARUN NEHRU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Besides keeping strict control over nuclear materials, the Government is taking all possible measures to ensure safety and protection of nuclear installations in the country.

Illegal arms factory unearthed in Mayapuri

1530. SHRI D. B. CHANDRA GOWDA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an illegal arms factory has been unearthed in Mayapuri in Delhi during June, 1986;

(b) if so, the details of the arms, ammunition and other articles seized from the factory; and